

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the Pre-Appeal received on 11 November 2008 in which claims 1 and 4-23 are pending.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney David Bennett on 15 December 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An accessory for a wireless communications device comprising:

a first peripheral accessory device; a system plug that mates with a system connector on the wireless communications device;

a cord electrically connecting the first peripheral accessory device with the system plug;

an auxiliary system connector configured to connect a second peripheral accessory device to the wireless communications device, said auxiliary system connector being integrally formed with the cord and positioned along the cord between

the system plug and the first peripheral device, and joined together with the cord as a single unit in a substantially permanent manner; and

a switch disposed on the auxiliary system connector, and configured to selectively connect the first and second peripheral devices to the wireless communications device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting accessories to a wireless communications device comprising:

connecting a first peripheral accessory device to a system connector on the wireless communications device, the first peripheral accessory device comprising a cord that interconnects the first peripheral accessory device and a system plug;

connecting a second peripheral accessory device to an auxiliary system plug ~~integrally formed with the cord and~~ positioned along the cord between the system plug and the first peripheral device, and joined together with the cord as a single unit in a substantially permanent manner; and

selectively switching between one or more signal paths that extend between the first and second peripheral accessory devices and the wireless communications device to selectively connect the first and second peripheral accessory devices to the wireless communications device.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant application is deemed to be directed to a nonobvious improvement over Sadler (U.S. Patent No. 6,058,319).

With respect to independent claims, the nonobvious improvement comprises an accessory for a wireless communications device having an auxiliary system connector configured to connect a second peripheral accessory device to the wireless communications device, said auxiliary system connector positioned along the cord between the system plug and the first peripheral device, and joined together with the cord as a single unit in a substantially permanent manner, as substantially described and connected with the other functional language recited in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHYLESHA DABNEY whose telephone number is (571)272-7494. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 9:00-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(703) 273-8300, for formal communications intended for entry and for informal or draft communications, please label "Proposed" or "Draft" when submitting an informal amendment.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

December 16, 2008

/PHYLESHA DABNEY/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/CURTIS KUNTZ/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614